

SAWIN HOUSE STUDY COMMITTEE

June 2, 2015 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Room 125, Community Senior Center

APPROVED

Present: Stephen Evers, Elissa Landre, Mike Linehan, Chris Milford, John Moran, Jan Parsons, Steve Roche, George Sawin, Ken Soderholm, Wayne Szretter, Jim Williamson. Ken Van Blarcom (representing the Friends of Shaw Park.)

Absent: Randy Johnson, Amy Ward.

Members of the public: Bats Wheeler.

Meeting called to order by Chair Ken Soderholm at 7:02 PM.

The minutes were reviewed with additions requested by Mr. Moran about his involvement with the third grade program at the Historical Society and the need for an historical period home to show to school children. Motion to accept, as amended, by Mr. Moran: second by Mr. Linehan, Vote: unanimous.

Discussion of proposed Sawin House web site by Mr. Milford: He envisions it as an optional part of report; offer to town as a series of links to various informational resources. If it bogs down with administrative issues, don't worry.

Discussion: the town does not like being linked to private web sites. You need to go to multiple sources on the web. Ms. Landre has found erroneous information about Mass Audubon in material from websites and even in material from the Natick Historical Society. To preserve either a building or the story, need to get the information out. The internet is one of the few resources to get people interested. Committee members feel there is enough information worth sharing in the proposal. Mr. Linehan moved to include Mr. Milford's proposal in the appendix with a disclaimer about not trusting resources on the internet. Second by Mr. Milford. Unanimous approval.

DISCUSSION of structure of Final Report: Original motion, charge and formation will go in appendix. So moved by Mr. Linehan, second by Ms. Landre. Vote unanimous. All reports including interim report to Town Meeting will go into Appendix. So moved by Mr. Linehan, second by Ms. Landre. Vote unanimous. Mr. Sawin asked that his First Do No Harm document go into the appendix. Second by Mr. Linehan. Vote: 8 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstain. Note that appendix items are not vetted for accuracy.

Goal to have final report drafted by the end of June. Must have final report ready for Finance Committee in September for Fall Town Meeting in mid- October.

INFORMATION about rules and policies regarding a Local Historic District designation for the Sawin House from Mr. Evers. Study committee must be formed. Ultimately Town Meeting must vote to create a Local Historic District by a 2/3 vote. The Historic commission designation can prevent a building permit or a demolition permit from being issued. The committee needs to resolve the status of the house before determining an opinion about promoting Local Historic District status for the site.

DISCUSSION of Executive Summary: Committee members agreed to review Mr. Szretter's draft of an executive summary. The Chair likes the idea of taking straw votes to gauge opinions about various options. Through discussion the options suggested by Mr. Szretter's draft were reworded and reordered to four:

- 1) Moved by Mr. Linehan, second by Mr. Szretter : Memorialize the Sawin Homestead/ Mills. Vote Yes 12 – Unanimous.
- 2) Moved by Mr. Szretter, second by Mr. Roche: Restore the home in some form on the site: Vote Yes 4, Opposed 7, Abstain 1.
- 3) Moved by Mr. Linehan, second by Mr. Szretter: relocate and preserve offsite. Vote Yes 7, Opposed 4, Abstain 1.
- 4) Moved by Mr. Linehan, second by Mr. Van Blarcom: status quo with no action by this committee. Vote: Yes 0, Opposed 12 – unanimous.

Consideration of Mr. Evers' Motion to present a motion to relocate the historic section of the homestead in Shaw Park. Vote: Yes 6, Opposed 3, Abstain 3.

Next meeting will be in the Town Hall at the Dlott Meeting Room, on Tuesday June 9 at 7:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn at 8:57 by Mr. Moran. Second by Mr. Roche. Unanimous approval.